

NTSB Academy

at

The George Washington University



***Independence, integrity and innovation
in transportation accident investigation.***

The NTSB Academy is a major initiative of the Safety Board to improve the training and skills of its own employees, and make its safety expertise and know-how more widely available to the transportation community



**Artist's rendering of
the new NTSB Academy
on the Virginia campus of
George Washington
University.**

Academy Mission

The mission of the NTSB Academy is to provide comprehensive education and training to the men and women who improve safety by conducting independent transportation accident investigations; to foster an environment that encourages transportation safety initiatives and technical research; and to promote uniform programs that ensure compassion, understanding and assistance for those affected by transportation tragedies.

Northern Virginia Campus

Located on the Ashburn, Virginia campus of the George Washington University, the state-of-the-art, 72,000-square-foot, two-level facility contains five classrooms, ample laboratory space, meeting rooms, student and teacher work areas, offices, an outside simulations court, and a large laboratory to house instructional wreckage -- including the three-dimensional, 93-foot reconstruction of the forward portion of the TWA flight 800 aircraft's fuselage.



Top left: NTSB Academy Auditorium. Top right: the world's largest civil aviation reconstruction will be housed in a large training laboratory (artist's rendering at left).

Curriculum

Safety Board senior managers and staff are continually working to determine training needs, identify and develop curricula in all modes, develop courses and materials, identify effective instructors, suggest resources, and review final course proposals.

In addition to refining, updating, and making the Safety Board's current accident investigation course more accessible, the Academy offers courses that cover innovative investigative tools in areas such as human factors, survival factors, vehicle performance, interviewing techniques, accident scene documentation, and investigation management.

Academy Courses

Although the facility was still under construction, 16 courses were offered since the Academy was created in 2002. These courses trained nearly 100 NTSB employees and more 450 transportation professionals from the United States and 24 other nations. Additional courses scheduled for 2003 in the newly opened Academy building include:

- A basic two-and a half-week accident investigation course for NTSB employees and investigators from here and abroad with whom we conduct investigations,
- Airline and marine industry training sessions to familiarize industry representatives with their duties and responsibilities during NTSB accident investigations,
- A transportation disaster assistance course designed for law enforcement officers who are initial responders to aviation disasters,
- A comprehensive transportation disaster assistance course for those who assist friends and families of major transportation accident victims
- A survival factors course designed for aviation accident investigators
- An interviewing class for accident investigators
- A course in accident site photography

More than 24 courses are planned for 2004.

See ***NTSB Website:*** www.nts.gov